

# Onslow Public Safety Working Group

Facilitated by  
Onslow County Emergency  
Services and Homeland Security  
Department



19 June 2008

***“If it is predictable...***

***it is preventable”***



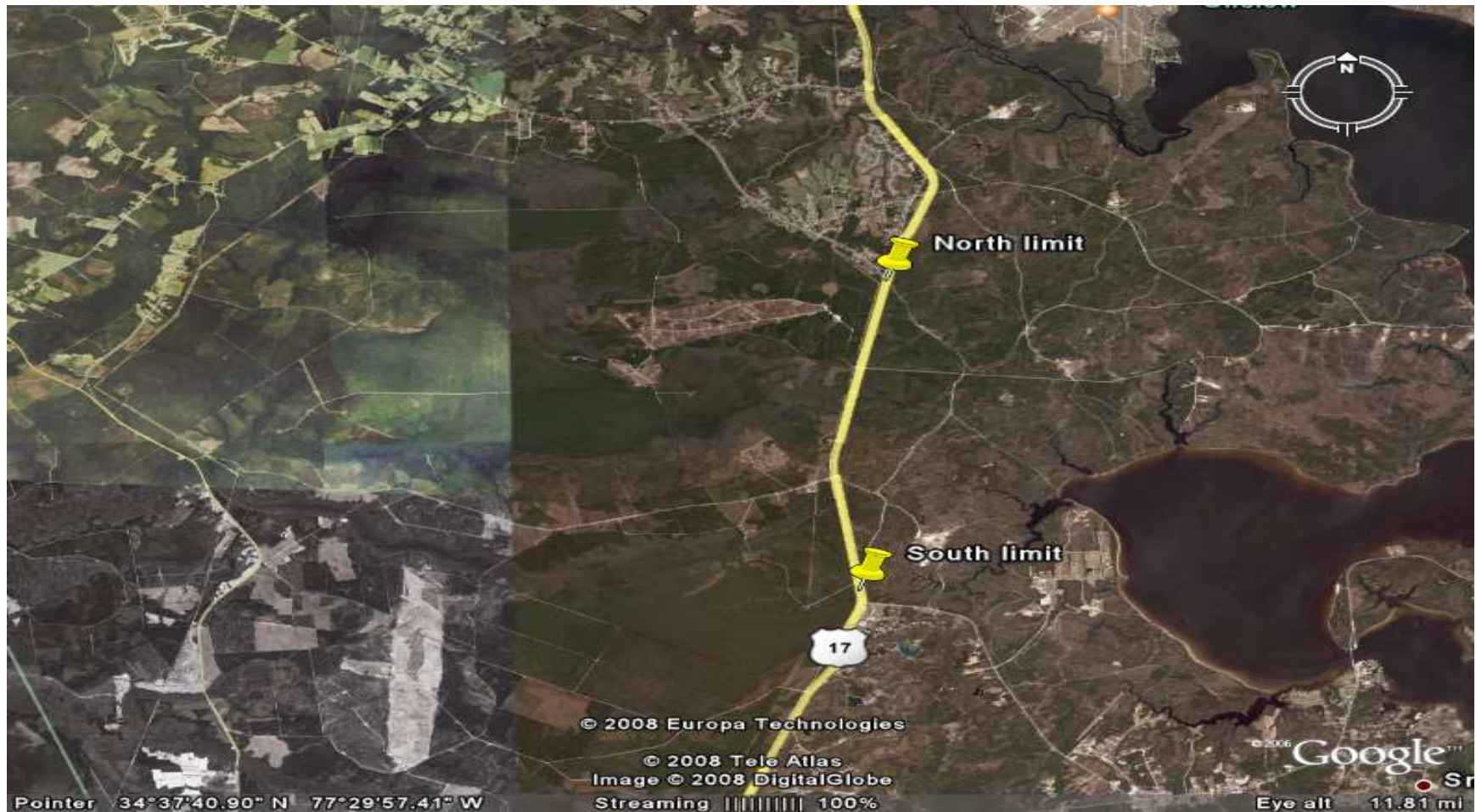
# KEY PARTICIPANTS

- Emergency Services
  - EMS, EM
  - E-911, OFM
- Onslow Safety Officer
- **NCDOT**
- NC Highway Patrol
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
  - ACS ISS/ E-911
  - PMO
  - Range Control
  - Safety
- NC Forestry
- MCB Forestry
- Jacksonville
  - Fire
  - Police
- OCSD
- VFD/VRS Associations
- National Weather Service

# Situation

- A tragic multiple vehicle accident occurred on highway 17 that resulted in the loss of a Volunteer Fire Fighter and a Deputy.
- Zero highway visibility was the major cause of the accident.
- Prevention of a repeat situation was the focus of this PSWG.

# Area most affected



This Photo taken 30 mins AFTER the accident occurred.  
Visibility had improved from it's previous state.  
Notice the car in the bottom left.













ISTICS INC.  
215034  
4,500

43920

AMBULANCE

# Hwy 17 Incident timeline 6/14/08

- 0: 0433 First 911 call reporting heavy smoke and vehicles stopping in road way
- 4': 0437 Report of car in ditch no injuries
- 4': 0437 Contacted base concerning smoke requesting signs be posted
- 14': 0447 LEO in area reporting heavy smoke
- 21': 0454 Report of wreck involving boat on a trailer, Fire and EMS dispatched

# Hwy 17 Incident 6/14/08

- 26':0459 EMS in area *attempting to locate*  
– decreased visibility
- 27':0500 Call from base notifying trying to get signs in place sending a unit to check situation
- 29': 0502EMS reports no injuries
- 36': 0509375 parked in south bound reports someone calling for help in north bound lane
- 28': 0512DOT notified to try and get signs posted

# Hwy 17 Incident 6/14/08

- 43': 0516 LEO requesting fire **stop all traffic**
- 44': 0517 Wreck involving EMS unit and
- 47': 0520 Third wreck involving 3 vehicles
- 48': 0521 Patient entrapment identified
- 49': 0522 Fire fighter reported down
- 52': 0525 EMS 7 *blocking* northbound traffic
- 53': 0526 Firefighter identified Signal-4



# Hwy 17 Incident 6/14/08

- **53'**: 0526 Request for notification of FM-1, FM-2, EMS-100, and CD-1
- **54'**: 0527 Notification of missing deputy
- **56'**: 0529 Deputy found, Signal-4, Sheriff notified
- **56'**: 0529 Notified base that LEO was sending traffic to the 172 gate
- **9hrs 50min**: 1522 Final unit cleared event

# Repeat Conditions

- The same visibility conditions occurred the following day at @ 0330-0745.
- Hyw 17 was temporarily closed
- 17 reopened at @ 0800 .



# Measured Steps

- Collecting and Maintaining Data
- Identifying Hazardous Locations and Elements
- Conducting Engineering Studies
- Establishing Project Priorities
- Scheduling and Implementing Projects
- Determining the Effects of Safety Improvements

# Collecting DATA

- Time of Day: 03:00-8:00 AM
- Elevation above sea level: 53 ft
- Air temperature: not a factor
- Wind direction/speed: Calm
- Humidity: 100%
- Location: HWY 17 between Verona & Dixon
- Other contributing factors: Fog, Dew point, inversion, poor dispersion





# ID Hazardous locations/element

- Known routine fire ignition sources  
**Training/firing ranges, GSRA, Hyw 24 N, Hyw 172, 210**
- Potential fire ignition sources  
**Control burns, prescribed burns, Hoffman forest, developers stump piles**
- Infrequent fire ignition areas  
**Arson, debris burns, old trash dumps, HAZMAT fires**

# Collect Engineering Data

- Number of cars per hr.: ( awaiting DOT data)
- Size/type of highway : 4 lane divided hwy
- Straight-line visibility : unlimited visibility
- Surface reflectivity: Thermoplastic marking
- Existing potential for warning signage ?  
: permanent signs, temp elec. signs, static signs, distant sensor warning sign system
- Probability of days per year for FOG development? Any time of year
- Other factors?:

# Priorities

- **Detection**

- NWS, LE, EMS, Public. MCB, Forestry, Range Control

- **Warning**

- Media notification
  - Onslow Emergency Services Connect-Cty: data and voice warning system, POTS, cell, text mgs. To news desks and others. Establish access for DOT and SHP, code word authentication authorizations for limited users
- Signs: Modification of existing base range signs, MCB/DOT mobile elec. static signs, sensor link signs
- Barricades ( Not practical in a timely manner)

# Implementation

- Immediate measures: ALCON **continue to monitor. MCB existing signs augmentation w/ dense smoke ahead signs & AM information transmission**
- Short range goals ( next six months): **trailblazing, DOT staging materials with local VFD's,**
- Long range goals: Next 12-18 months) **DOT sensor/warning sign system**



# Effects of Safety Improvements

- Semiannual review of accident information
- Determination and Geo-location ( GIS Mapping ) of annual smoke events/wildfires/controlled burns etc.
- Next meeting: July 28, 2008 (Monday 9-12 AM)

# Immediate Actions

- OC ES&HLS to develop Connect CTY regional media notification and warning call list direct to regional media news desks
- Activation list for authorized NCSHP and NCDOT selected personnel to activate Connect-cty warnings
- Additional training/instruction for OC E-911
- MCB to provide additional instruction to Range control for activation of existing permanent warning signs

# Items working

- DOT to explore sensor-warning signs system as used in other parts of NC.
- DOT to establish Trailblazer systems for detours.
- DOT to erect flip-up warning signs for use when required.
- Both 911 centers to become increasingly aware of existing issues

# Items working ( Cont)

- NWS to explore feasibility of spot automated weather reporting system at MCB tower in GSRA training area.
- NWS to explore the inclusion of forecast advisory for potential smoke/fog development.
- OC ES&HLS to assist DOT with interoperable communication requirements

# Next Meeting

- Next meeting: July 28, 2008 (Monday 9-12 AM)
- Onslow EOC

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the PSWG  
28 July 2007



# Results

- Camp Lejeune warning sign modification  
( Completed)







# RESULTS

- NCDOT:
  - Pre-stage road closure equipment
  - Trailblazer/Detour signs established.
  - Trained staff authorized to activate Emergency Public Safety Connect-CTY notification system via Onslow E-911 center.
  - Modify existing radio templates for better interoperable connectivity
  - Explore additional safety systems







# RESULTS

- NCSHP:
  - Review SOP for low visibility operational environments.
  - Train Staff of procedures for Connect CTY Emergency Public Safety Notification message activation via Onslow E-911 center.

# RESULTS

- OC EMS ( ongoing)
  - Revised low visibility response procedures.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> priority STOP TRAFFIC before entering low visibility environment.
  - Incorporated revised SOP into training package.



# RESULTS

- OC Emergency Management  
( Completed)
  - Established Connect-CTY call list
  - Established Connect-CTY public safety rd closure authorized activator list.
  - Tested Connect-CTY call system ( Fri. 25 July)
  - Tested GEO-designation call system
  - Developed auto-message text messages



Reach Your Community In Minutes Using Your Own Voice

# Emergency Warning CONTACT PRINT OUT

( Only one bad ph number and  
that has been corrected)

Onslow County

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM  
TEST RESULTS

## **CLOSURE MESSAGE**

“THIS IS THE ONSLOW COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER.  
EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE IN ONSLOW COUNTY  
HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_\_ BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS OF HYW \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_,  
AND HYW \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ IS CURRENTLY CLOSED.

TRAFFIC SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK ALTERNATE ROUTES.  
DETOUR SIGNS WILL BE ESTABLISHED SHORTLY.

AGAIN, HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ IS CURRENTLY  
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.  
ESTIMATED LENGTH OF THIS CLOSURE IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME.  
FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS CLOSURE WILL BE  
PROVIDED  
AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE

## **REOPENING MESSAGE**

“THIS IS THE ONSLOW COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

SUBJECT: HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_ NOW OPEN TO TRAFFIC FLOW.

HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_ BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS OF HYW \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_,

AND HYW \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ IS NOW OPEN TO TRAFFIC.

AGAIN, HIGHWAY \_\_\_\_ IN THE VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ IS CURRENTLY  
OPEN TO TRAFFIC FLOW.

NO FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT WILL BE  
PROVIDED.

# RESULTS

- OC E-911 ( Completed)
  - Trained 911 operators/supervisors on Connect CTY call down procedures.
  - Provided list of authorized Connect-CTY activators.
  - Established GEO-designation call capability in Connect CTY system for E-911 supervisors

# RESULTS

- Regional Media
  - ( Completed ) Provided current emergency notification contact numbers for Connect-CTY Public Safety Notification list.

# RESULTS

- Fire:
  - ( Mid-Long Term ) Restripe fire equipment with additional reflective decals on rear of units. NFPA 1901 ( 50% rear 50% cab and sides, 25% or front width w/ 4" yellow and Red chevron reflective stripe, Eff. Jan 2009)



# QUESTIONS

- Who has the authority to temporarily close a NC Highway ?
  - When low visibility conditions threaten the safety of the general public?
  - For any non-emergency situation?
- Who should be notified when a NC Highway is closed for an emergency condition?

